

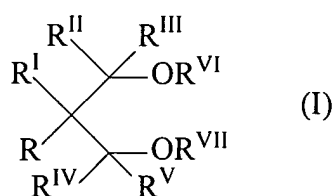
Amendments to the Specification

In the first sentence after the title, please insert:

This application is the U.S. national stage of International Application PCT/EP03/05268, filed May 19, 2003.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 1, and ending at line 13, with the following paragraph.

Preferably the ether having at least two ether groups is selected among 1,3 diethers of the formula (I):



wherein R, R^I, R^{II}, R^{III}, R^{IV} and R^V equal to or different from ~~equal or different to~~ each other, are hydrogen or hydrocarbon radicals having from 1 to 18 carbon atoms, and R^{VI} and R^{VII}, equal to or different from each other, have the same meaning of R-R^V except that they cannot be hydrogen; one or more of the R-R^{VII} groups can be linked to form a cycle. The 1,3-diethers in which R^{VI} and R^{VII} are selected from C₁-C₄ alkyl radicals are particularly preferred. In particular, the 1,3-diethers of formula (I), in which the radicals R^{II}-R^V are hydrogen, the radicals R^{VI} and R^{VII} are C₁-C₄ alkyl radicals and the radicals R and R^I, same or different from ~~to~~ each other, are C₁-C₁₈ alkyl groups, C₃-C₁₈ cycloalkyl groups, C₆-C₁₈ aryl groups, or C₇-C₁₈ alkylaryl or arylalkyl groups. Most preferred are the ~~said~~ diethers in which R and R^I are C₁-C₁₀ linear or branched alkyls.